Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1635 - December 12, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1635 with a release date of Friday, December 12th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. Region One of the International Amateur Radio Union suggests contest free operating spectrum, the FCC asks hams to help in the digital United States television conversion, two industry giants say that they will build a national rescue radio system, two friends unite for a space to classroom contact and the tale of ham radio's patron saint. Hear his amazing story on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1635 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO REGULATION: THE IARU SUGGESTS SOME WELCOME CHANGES

No-contesting zones and improved QSL procedures are just two of the items discussed at the recent International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Conference held in Croatia. Jim Linton, VK3PC, has the details:

--

The five-day IARU Region 1 Conference attended by 50 delegates had a packed agenda related to various amateur radio activities - contesting, beacons, QRP, intruder watch and specialized emission modes.

Among other topics were operating procedure, emergency communications, BPL and the promotion of amateur radio.

One conference initiative may see the IARU proposing to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO, that it acknowledges the Amateur Radio Service as an activity to be protected.

The QSL'ing practices of some DX stations were discussed. The conference resolved to encourage QSL managers of DXpedition, DXCC, IOTA or other stations to accept both direct and Bureau QSL cards.

It was also recommended that contest-free band segments be included in rules of contests organized by national societies, and where possible, contests include a category for youngsters and newcomers.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

--

Meantime the conference also reported that all is now in place for the expansion of the 40 meter band. This very useful HF spectrum will double in size in many parts of the world on the 29th of March. (WIA News)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FCC ASKS HAMS TO ASSIST IN FEBRUARY 2009 DTV

CONVERSION

Hams across the United States are being asked by the FCC to assist in the upcoming conversion of all television broadcasting to digital operation. This, as the ARRL reports that it has received a request from the regulatory agency asking its members to provide technical educational assistance to their communities concerning the FCC-mandated digital television conversion scheduled for February 17, 2009.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the Digital Television conversion in their geographic areas. The FCC is leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this because they believe that local groups understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not.

Pitts said that in early January the FCC will ask ARRL Section Managers for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. The FCC staff will then make contact with the groups, learn their plans and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials that groups and clubs may need in this effort. FCC regional staff members may even visit with larger organizations to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

Pitts stressed that hams should not make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations. The request is only to distribute technical information and FCC materials only. In other words you are not to do anything other than hand out literature and answer questions. Nor can you charge anyone for your time or effort as this is a volunteer undertaking.

Interested groups should contact their ARRL Section Manager. More information on this request from the FCC is on line on the ARRL newspages at www.arrl.org. (ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: GSS AND NORTHROP GRUMMAN TO BUILD NATIONAL EMCOMM ALERT SYSTEM

Global Security Systems and Northrop Grumman say that they are working together to offer an integrated emergency alert system. One that they hope will be deployed all across the United States by homeland security officials. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, is here with the details:

--

According to a news release the system is designed to cover any emergency situation at any level. It says that in the event of a war, natural disaster, national, regional or local emergency the combined systems will allow the president, state and local officials, critical infrastructure and emergency management agencies to seamlessly and immediately communicate with first responders as well as citizens. This using any and all forms of personal communications devices such as cellular phones, wireless Personal Digital Assistants and permanently installed two-way enabled entertainment systems.

Northrop Grumman will build a national, state and local alert and warning system that uses wireless communications infrastructure and consumer devices. Global Security Systems will contribute expertise in local collection and delivery of emergency messages and its experience in deploying its Alert FM system.

The two companies believe they can offer an all encompassing national alerting framework that spans agencies and levels of government at all levels while benefiting from an installed base at emergency operations centers. They also contend that this system will provide an access point to involve mobile service providers and device integration labs.

According to the announcement, the Alert FM technology allows warnings to be sent to geographically specific areas and the control processor chip can be designed into common devices such as cell phones, pagers and even smoke detectors. It will be interesting to see if any ham radio manufacturer decides to integrate Alert FM into the next generation of ham radio gear or if they will be licensed by the technology's patent holder to do so.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles

--

The bottom line: While the FCC tries to find a way to make money selling off spectrum to companies to use to build a non money making national emergency alert and communications network, two corporations have decided to take the initiative on their own. (RW)

**

COMMUNICATIONS LAW: FCC CHAIRMAN MARTIN UNDER CONGRESSIONAL FIRE

A year-long Congressional investigation of Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin J. Martin is alleging egregious abuses of power. However it was unclear whether the nation's top telecommunications regulator broke any rules or laws during his leadership.

The report released on Wednesday, December 10th is titled "Deception and Distrust." It was led by Representatives. John D. Dingell who is Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Bart Stupak the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. The report alleges that the FCC's Martin suppressed information and manipulated data to serve his agenda.

For some time, Chairman Martin has been criticized by his own FCC staff members for pushing his proposals to free up media ownership rules and pushing requirements for a la carte pricing of cable television. This, through such tactics as suppressing agency studies that do not support his plans.

FCC spokesman Robert Kenny said that the agency's review of the report indicated the it did not violate any rules, laws or procedures, but Congress will ultimately have the final say in this matter. (W8HDU, others)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KA9KBU Net serving Hickory Hills, Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: A DECISION IN THE MILLS TOWER CASE

A zoning board in a Pennsylvania suburb has rendered its decision on the fate of a tower owned by Chuck Mills, W3YNI. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has been following the matter and has the latest:

--

By a vote of 5-0, the Penn Township Zoning Hearing Board in southwestern Pennsylvania voted to uphold the permit issued to W3YNI for a 53-foot-tower on his property.

"I'm very eager to continue my hobby and continue to serve the community when I'm called upon to do so."

That's Chuck Mills in a telephone interview with Amateur Radio Newsline immediately following the board's decision.

Mills has been battling neighbor John Ducar who simply didn't want a ham radio tower erected next to his property.

Mills says he did everything the township asked him to do, including provide proper screening. But it was PRB-1 and Pennsylvania's recently enacted tower law called Act 88 which bolstered his case.

While Ducar has the right to appeal, Mills says he's hopeful this battle has come to an end.

"I've learned to never say never, but I'm optimistic at this point that this will be the end of it," Mills says.

Michael Lazaroff, K3AIR, a volunteer American Radio Relay League legal counsel, has been with Mills throughout the process. He says Pennsylvania's new, ham-friendly tower law, went into effect Dec. 8, just three days before the board's decision was issued.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first case that's been considered under Act 88 of 2008 and if so, it's very good news," Lazaroff says.

As for Mills' neighbor, Lazaroff says, he, too, is confident the dispute has come to a legal end.

"He appears to be rather upset that the zoning hearing board ruled against him," Lazaroff says. "He does have the right to file an appeal with the

county common pleas court. He has 30 days to do so. However, the standard of review is pretty strict.

"If he appeals, in order to prevail, he will have to prove that the township zoning hearing board either abused their discretion or made an error of law in denying his appeal. I don't believe he can prove either point."

Lazaroff says it's time to move on.

"I'm hoping that this neighbor will finally realize that it's over and he needs to move on with his life and get over it," Lazaroff says.

The attorney says the decision actually has much broader implications.

"This is an important decision, an important victory for private property rights and for PRB-1 and Act 88," Lazaroff says. "We've seen in this country a very steady erosion of private property rights in the last few years. And, I'm glad to see that at least in this case that that erosion has come to a stop."

For his part, Mills says he has been very appreciative of the backing received from hams in his area and throughout the country.

"Support from the ham community was tremendous both in terms of moral support, financial support, and just a collective 'Thank you' to all of them," Mills says.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia

--

This is not the only tower and antenna issue being faced by hams. We will have more for you on them in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm), NT3V)

**

ENFORCEMENT: THE $51,500 FAX FINE

Another heavy fine for sending out unsolicited fax's. This, as the FCC notifies Hot Lead LLC of Addison and Plano Texas and Las Vegas, Nevada of its Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $51,500 for delivering at least nine unsolicited advertisements to the telephone facsimile machines of at least nine consumers. That works out to be a fine of $5722 per unsolicited fax. The company was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: YOU HAVE TO PUT IT IN PRINT

The FCC has also notified Multi-Tech Systems, Inc. of its Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $4,000. This, for marketing a radio frequency device without including the required consumer disclosure in the user manual.

Multi-Tech is a manufacturer of communications and device networking products that provide voice and data services over internet protocol networks. One of its products, the CallFinder Global System for Mobile Communications is a cellular gateway that enables users to connect to a private branch exchange trunk line, PBX extension line, or a single public switched telephone network line and route incoming and outgoing calls through a GSM wireless network.

Because the CallFinder is a Class A digital device, Multi-Tech must verify that it complies with the requirements contained in Part 15 of the Rules and must distribute it with a customer notice informing users of the potential for harmful interference. It failed to do the latter and that's the reason for the proposed $4000 fine. (FCC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS IN SCOTLAND PROIVIDE EMCOM AT CAR CRASH

A family in Scotland left stranded with at least one person injured when their car skidded off a rural country road has been rescued. This thanks to the quick thinking of two United Kingdom amateur radio operators.

The drama unfolded Friday morning, December 5th. That's when Barry Horning, GM4TOE, came across the couple and their three children ina wreck on the Dufftown-Tomintoul road. Unable to get a cellular telephone phone signal near the accident scene, GM4TOE took to ham radio for medical assistance for the injured female driver.

Using the services of a local repeater, Horning's plea was picked up 20 miles away in the town of Longmorn by Jon Coulter. Coulter, who was not identified by call sign notified police and gave them the information needed for an emergency medical response. A short time later an ambulance arrived at the accident scene to provide on site treatment and then transported the victim to a local medical facility.

According to Horning the ambulance crew was impressed by the way he and Coulter were able to provide them exact coordinates for the accident site. They told him that it saved them a lot of time in responding to the scene.

Coulter says that he's not heard from Horning since the QSO to report the accident so he has no word on the current condition of those who were injured in the mishap. (Northern Scot)

**

RESCUE RADIO: WICHITA KS. NEWSPAPER HONORS SKYWARN

The Wichita, Kansas Eagle newspaper has recognized the key role that ham radio operators play in providing an early warning of approaching severe weather. In its December 7th story titled Skywarn volunteers see what radar can't the paper notes that when severe weather threatens the region, dozens of volunteer amateur radio operators and weather spotters work together to provide information to the Weather Service. Writer Tim Potter calls the Skywarn hams the eyes on the ground for the National Weather

Service in Wichita. In the Wichita region, Skywarn covers 26 counties. The article is on-line at
http://www.kansas.com/news/state/v-print/story/623024.html   (Kansas.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: RENO TV STATION HONORS HAM RADIO EMCOMM

Ham radio operators providing emergency communications was also the theme of a 2 minute news report over NBC television affiliate KRNV in Reno Nevada. One of those featured was Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM., who explained to reporter Lemor Shlomof the way in which hams helped loved ones learn about the health and welfare in a disaster area. The story also featured Jack Goetz, WA2FDK, who has been a ham since 1934 reminiscing about the old days of the hobby. This was a very positive story about ham radio at a truly fun time of year. Our thanks to KRVN for permission to use the audio clips heard in this report. (KRNV)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: GET WELL WISHES TO WA6MHZ

Get well wishes to past ARRL San Diego Section Manager Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, who is and is recovering from heart surgery. Pat was operated on last Thursday at haro Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa California. Hes now at home and those that know Pat are well aware that he particularly enjoys discussing vintage radio and even runs a ham radio museum at his QTH. Get well wishes can go to WA6MHZ at his Callbook address or e-mail listed on QRZ dot com. (CGC Communicator)

**

HAM AWARDS: THE LEWIS AND CLARK AWARD PROGRAM

The Pacific Northwest V H F Society has announced the creation of its new Lewis and Clark awards program. The goal is that of promoting V H F and U H F activity throughout the Pacific Northwest. The awards and certificates of this program are specific to the culture and pioneering spirit of rams residing in the North-Western states. However, the sponsors say that with modern communications technology it should also be obtainable by radio amateurs outside of that local geographic region. More information is on the society's webpage at www.pnwvhfs.org (VHF Reflector)

**

HOLIDAY RADIO: OPERATION SANTA CLAUSE IN SOCAL

Operation Santa Clause has begun. This as members of California's Moreno Valley Amateur Radio Association, provided an opportunity for children to ï¿½Talk to Santa' via amateur radio at the 10th annual Lake Perris State Recreation Areaï¿½s, ï¿½Lights on the Lake' holiday season celebration,
 held on
Saturday, December 6th.

Some 15 members of the Moreno Valley club participated along with members of the City of Moreno Valley RACES organization. Each child received a

name tag identifying their radio contact and entitling them the opportunity to personally meet Santa following the evening finale of the parade of boats.

Alan Pearson, KB6DMZ, is a spokesperson for the club. He says that the overall success of the event was gauged by the long lines of children making their Christmas wishes known to Santa at the groups lakeside amateur radio station. (AF6HR)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RDIO IN SPACE: AN ARISS CONTACT BETWEEN FRIENDS

Its not often when two friends hold a space to ground Q-S-O so that the one on-orbit can talk top kids in a classroom. But that's what happened so that students at a southern Illinois grade school could get their chance to vicariously go into space. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

--

Monday, December 8th was just another day at the Ellis Elementary School in Belleville, Illinois. The students came to class. They got their daily education. And oh yes, they also got to talk to Astronaut and Flight Engineer Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE, on board the International Space Station. Take a listen:

--

Student: "My name is Austin. What was the first thing you did when you got into space?"

KF5FYE: "You know Austin, the first thing I did was also the most fun. I actually opened up my seatbelt and let myself float out of my seat and that's how I knew I was back on orbit. Over."

--

The QSO between Ellis Elementary and Sandra Mangus was a direct contact. It was made possible by ARISS -- amateur Radio on the International Space Station in conjunction with the Saint Clair Amateur Radio Club of nearby Saint Louis, Missouri. Its callsign K9GXU was used to establish contact with KE5FYE who was operating from the space station as NA1SS:

--

Control Station: "NA1S, NA1SS, this is K9GXU, over."

KF5FYE: "K9GXU, this is NA1SS. How do you copy?"

Control Station: "We've got you perfect."

--

Once the two way circuit was established the real fun began. This, as student after student quizzed KF5FYE on what it was like to ride to orbit and live on board the I-S-S:

--

Student: "Hi, my name is Ashley. How long does it take to get from Earth to the ISS?"

KF5FYE: "Ashley, the ISS is only up about 200 to 250 miles but we use about three days to get here because of the way that the shuttle flies to the station. So I'm really not that far away. Over."

Student: My name is Allison. "How funny do you think a bird would look if it was flying inside the
ISS-would it fly like a bird on Earth?"

KF5FYE: "Well Allison, that's a good question because I don't know what kind of sensors that birds have that sense gravity. In the environment (here) there is air it can fly in but I don't know how it would feel without gravity. Over.

Student: "My name is Felix. What are some of the fun experiments you are doing?"

KF5FYE: "Well Felix, my most fun one I am watching. We have a couple of spiders up here and they are learning how to build webs in zero gravity. As a matter of fact, you guys sent us the names for the spiders -- Elmo and Spiderman. And thank you for that., over."

--

On hand to record the event was ham radio's own Mr. Audio, Bob Heil, K9EID. After the contacts were concluded Bob got a chance to chat with the third grade teacher spearheading the project. She is Jennifer May who just happened to be a longtime friend of Flight Engineer Sandy Magnus, KE5FYE:

--

K9EID: "How great was this for you today"

May: "Oh this was wonderful. The children have been working on this for the past couple of weeks. They formed their questions. They had everything prepared. They decorated the room and they really enjoyed themselves and especially hearing Sandy on the radio.

K9EID: "You and Sandy have been friends for a couple of years, as I understand."

May: "Yes, we have."

K9EID: "How long have you been working together on this project?"

May: "Its not just this project. We've been pen-pals and friends for about 13 years.

K9EID: "It has to have been real exciting?"

May: "Yes. Especially to see all of the and the (antennas) go on top of the roof and everybody working together. We could not have pulled this off without everyone."

--

Bob also got a chance to speak with the ham radio operator who made the technical end of the contact happen. Chris Pixson, KC9EIZ:

--

K9EID: "Chris, what did you thing of this operation?"

KC9EIZ: "Well, the fact that it was successful was the most important thing and not for the amateur radio side. Rather for the 26 third graders at the Ellis Elementary School who had a once in a lifetime experience of talking to the International Space Station.

"The amateur radio gear that we had worked flawlessly and the hundreds and hundreds of man hours that were put in by amateurs to make this happen is the key to the success of this whole endeavor."

--

Not only was this contact between the Ellis Elementary School an overwhelming success, the kids even learned how Santa Clause gets to space. Well at least how Christmas presents get there:

--

Student: "My name is Tim. Since you are going to be on the ISS for Christmas, how are you going
to get your presents?"

KF5FYE: "Tim, actually, our presents arrived on the last Progress vehicle last Sunday, but I haven't opened them.. I'm going to wait until Christmas to open them so it will be a surprise. Over."

--

And on that happy holiday note we say well done to all who made this ARISS contact both a fun and educational time for the students at the Ellis Elementary School, in Brellville, Illinois.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

--

Our sincere thanks to Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound Limited for recording the event and making the sound available to us for this story. (ARNewline(tm) with audio provided by K9EID)

**

WORLDBEAT: NEW EUROPEAN DRM SERVICE LAUNCHES IN 2009

Early 2009 is the target for a new joint radio service that will serve European audiences on shortwave using Digital Radio Mondiale technology. That's when the BBC World Service and the English-language division of Deutsche Welle will begin targeting Western and Central Europe, with digital content that will include global news and current affairs, analysis, documentaries and cultural programs.

BBC World Service is a U.K.based international radio and online broadcaster; Deutsche Welle is Germany's international broadcaster. Digital Radio Mondiale was developed in Eueope as the digital broadcasting system for bands below 30 MHz. With the exception of North America where In Band On Challel or IBOC is trying to gain a foothold, Digital Radio Mondiale has been almost universally embraced worldwide as the preferred medium for broadcast services to use on these bands. (RW)

**

DX

In DX, WJ2O, will once again be active from VP5JM's location on Providenciales Island during the ARRL DX CW Contest on February 21st and 22nd. His call will be VP5DF and he will operate as a single-operator all-band entry. QSL via his home callsign

And Japanese special event station 8J1UEC90 is on the air until 12th January. This, in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the University of Electro-Communications. QSL only via the bureau.

The 4M5DX Group will activate Toas Island from December 9th to the 12th using CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 through 6 meters. QSL via IT9DAA, either direct or via the bureau.

Lastly, listen out for G7OCD operating from the Maldives as 8Q7AK from January 11th to the 27th. This will be his fifth time on from that location and he plans to operate 40 through 10 meters on SSB and CW every day. Times are approximately 0730 to 0830, 0900 to 1030, 1300 to1500 and 1730 to 1800 hours UTC. For QSL information please check 8Q7AK- on QRZ dot com.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THE SAINT OF AMATEUR RADIO

And finally this week, the story of a ham radio operator who was killed by the Nazi's during World War 2. Graham Kemp VK4BB, is here with the story of SP3RN:

--

GI70MY writing in the 30 meter psk yahoo group says that during the WW2 German occupation of Poland, a Ham radio Priest, Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, SP3RN was arrested by the Germans. The Germans believed his amateur radio activities were somehow involved inespionage and he was transferred to Auschwitz on May 28, 1941.

After some prisoners escaped in 1941, the Germans ordered that 10 prisoners be killed in retribution.. Fr. Kolbe was martyred when he volunteered to take the place of one of the condemned men.

On October 10, 1982 he was canonized by Pope John Paul II as Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Apostle of Consecration to Mary and declared a Martyr of charity. He is now considered the Patron saint of Amateur Radio Operators.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB, of the WIA News in Australia.

--

A bit of history about a ham who truly cared about his fellow man. One who cared enough to forfeit his own life to save another. (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box
 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV,, saying 73 from and we thank you for listening.

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2008. All rights reserved.